

# THE RURAL REPORT | OCT 28 2025

Updates on Federal Action and Funding Opportunities  
Supporting Development in Rural Communities

## **SNAP Funding Bills Introduced in the House and Senate**

As states warn recipients that Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will likely not be administered in November due to lapsed funding – marking the first SNAP pause in history – Senator Josh Hawley (R-MO) and Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA) have introduced legislation to fund the program for the duration of the shutdown. The bills are among a number of “rifle-shot” bills introduced to directly fund critical programs and federal salaries as the stalemate on a continuing resolution continues. Though there have been discussions about bringing the bill to the floor within the next week in the Senate, no vote has been scheduled.

## **Shutdown Impacts to Farm Country Pile Up**

In addition to concerns about nutrition programs, agriculture stakeholders are worried about several other USDA and Department of Labor programs that have been impacted by the shutdown. Details are scarce on how the administration plans to offset losses to Ag producers once the shutdown ends. Thousands of Farm Service Agency offices are shuttered, taking away a crucial financial resource from farmers and ranchers struggling due to decimated markets, tariffs, and rising input costs. Specialty crop producers are warning that the shutdown is delaying H-2A visa processing during harvest season for some fruits and vegetables.

## **Potential Trade “Framework” with China Could Relieve Ag Pressure**

As President Trump prepares to meet with Chinese Premier Xi Jinping to discuss trade between the two countries, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said this week that he anticipates that the U.S. will avoid imposing 100 percent tariffs on China due to recent developments, including an agreement on “substantial agriculture purchases for U.S. farmers.” Bessent specifically noted that U.S. soybean farmers “will feel very good about what's going on, both for this season and the coming seasons, for several years.”

## Funding Opportunities

### [Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages](#)

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD offers competitive grants to Indian tribes for the development of decent housing, suitable living environment and economic opportunities to advance viable Indian and Alaska Native communities. **Application deadline: 11/24/2025**

### [Farm to School Grant Program](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Improves access to local foods in eligible Child Nutrition Program (CNP) sites through comprehensive farm to CNP programming that includes local sourcing and agricultural education efforts. **Application deadline: December 5, 2025**

### [Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture

USDA Rural Development provides funding for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage and solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible rural areas. **Application deadline: Open**

### [On-Farm Labor Housing Loans](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture

USDA Rural Development provides low-interest loans to eligible borrowers to develop or rehabilitate rental housing for very-low- to moderate-income farm laborers. **Application deadline: Open until funds are depleted**

### [USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture

USDA Rural Development supports zero-interest loans and grants for current and former eligible Rural Utilities Service borrowers who then use the funds to help local businesses finance projects that create/retain jobs or support community facility projects. **Application Deadline: Quarterly**

### [Intermediary Relending Program](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture

USDA Rural Development provides funds to local lenders or “intermediaries” that re-lend to businesses to improve economic conditions and create new opportunities in rural communities. **Application deadline: Quarterly**

### [Community Facilities Programs](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture

USDA Rural Development provides funding to develop or improve essential public services and facilities. Projects include fire and rescue stations, town halls, health care clinics, hospitals, childcare centers, assisted living facilities, rehabilitation centers, public buildings, schools, libraries, and many other community-based initiatives. **Application Deadline: Open**

### [Mutual Self-Help Housing Technical Assistance Grants](#)

U.S. Department of Agriculture

USDA Rural Development provides grants to organizations to help them carry out local self-help housing construction projects. Recipients supervise groups of very-low- and low-income individuals and families as they construct their own homes in rural areas. **Application deadline: Open**